

# ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

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Oct. 22, 2003

Vol. 42 No. 20

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## Never forget

*See page 20 for more  
information*

Sgt. Juan Vara

# FLIGHTLINES

## Battle Color Ceremony

Featuring the Silent Drill Platoon, the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Color Guard.

Scheduled today at 3 p.m. at the football field adjacent to building AS-4000.

## 20th Beirut Remembrance

The 20th Beirut Remembrance will be observed at the Beirut Memorial at the entrance to Camp Johnson on Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will honor the fallen service-members and survivors who served in Lebanon from 1958 to 1984 and in Grenada.

Former Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired General Alfred M. Gray, is scheduled to deliver the Beirut Memorial address.

## Marine Corps Traffic Safety Program

Operators of privately owned vehicles on Marine Corps installations are reminded not to use cellular phones while driving, unless they are using a hands-free device.

On all installations, vehicles are to be operated with headlights turned on during periods of precipitation and other reduced visibility conditions.

Minimum penalties for failure to wear seatbelts on a Marine Corps installation are:

(1) For first violation, one week suspension of driving privileges plus attendance at a four-hour remedial driv-

ing class focused on safety belts.

(2) For second violation, one-month suspension of driving privileges.

(3) For third violation, six-months suspension of driving privileges.

## Pre-retirement Seminar

Thinking about retiring? Find all the information you need to know at the pre-retirement seminar held at the Family Service building aboard the Station.

The seminar provides in-depth coverage of the Social Security Administration, Survivor Benefit Plan, DEERS/RAPIDS, and resume and interview techniques.

They also focus on retirement pay and entitlement, financial planning, employment service, VA benefits and allowances, Tri-Care health benefits and educational opportunities.

The seminar fulfills the mandated attendance requirement for TAP and pre-separation, and it is scheduled for Oct. 27 - 31 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact your unit transition counselor or call 449-6110.

## Enlisted Assignment Monitors' Visit

On Oct. 31, the Enlisted Assignments Branch (MMEA) of the Personnel Management Division at Headquarters Marine Corps will provide briefings which target officer, staff noncommissioned officer leadership and every enlisted Marine in the command. First term Marines with an end of active service between Oct. 1

and Sept. 31, 2004 must see their career planner prior to this event. Briefs are tailored for each designated audience and consist of the following:

### Sergeants and below on their first contract

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. (Station Theater)

First term brief: Areas covered include current issues and policies surrounding retention of first term Marines, including lateral moves, the First Term Alignment Plan (FTAP), reenlistment incentives and special duty assignments.

### Career Marines

7:30 - 9 a.m. (E-Club)

Career Brief 101: Career Marines in grades sergeant through gunnery sergeant. Provides an overview on the impact of performance, evaluations and assignment decisions on individual careers.

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. (E-Club)

The Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMEA) Overview Brief: All officers and senior SNCOs. The content will cover awareness of enlisted Marine issues including assignments, retention, staffing, unit cohesion and Enlisted Career Force Controls.

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (E-Club)

Career Brief 501: All officers and Marines in grades E-8 and E-9. Provides insight into the impact of Fitness Reports on the SNCO promotion process, a synopsis of notes from selection board debriefs and information on issues/trends concerning enlisted promotions.

3 p.m. - To be determined (E-Club)

The Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMEA) Branch Sergeant Major Brief: All Marines in grades E-8 and E-9. The focus of the brief is the assignment, promotion, enlisted retention programs and current

Marine Corps policies.

Career counselors and monitors will be available from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at building AS-604. Air monitors will be available from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at AS-604 from Oct. 29 - 31.

In addition to the above briefs, enlisted monitors and career counselors will be available for interviews and counseling. When Marines see the counselors, they must have with them their Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) on CD-ROM and their Master Brief Sheet. Marines should contact their unit career retention specialist for more information.

## USO Salutes The Troops

The USO will celebrate its third annual Salute to the Troops event Nov. 1 from 12 - 4 p.m.

There will be free food and entertainment for service-members and their guests. Those in attendance will also have the opportunity to meet the girls from Hooters.

Entertainment will be provided by The Conductors and The Mike Corrado Band.

For more information about the event, call 455-3411.

## Crime Stoppers

Citizens can report crimes anywhere in our community. The caller never has to reveal their name. They pay cash rewards up to \$1,000.

Call the 24-hour hotline, 938-3273 whether you're on or off a military installation.



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**Executive Officer**  
Lt. Col. Karl S. Elebash

**Sergeant Major**  
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# Murray takes command

## MAG-26 bids farewell to Ashton

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

Colonel Thomas M. Murray took command of Marine Aircraft Group-26 from Col. Douglas F. Ashton at a ceremony held Oct. 10 outside the hangar of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264.

Family members, friends and dozens of high-ranking Marines attended as Murray, who comes to MAG-26 after serving at the Pentagon, receive the Group colors from Ashton, commander of MAG-26 for the last two years.

A St. Paul, Minn., native, Murray graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in quantitative methods. He was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course and following The Basic School, reported for flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and was designated a Naval Aviator in April 1982.

After training in Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-301, he was designated a CH-46 pilot. He has served various tours at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Quantico, Va., MCAS Tustin, Calif., Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the Pentagon.

Ashton leaves New River to retire in the northern Virginia area after more than 27 years of service.

"We're here to commemorate the transfer of authority and to say good bye to Colonel Ashton," said Maj. Gen. John G. Castellaw, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, while addressing those attending the ceremony. "I have a special place in my heart for Doug.

"When 'Boomer' [Col. Robert E. Milstead, former MAG-29 commanding officer] took MAG-29 to war, Doug unselfishly gave up all assets 'Boomer' needed," Castellaw added. "The great success of MAG-29 is owed in part to Doug."

After relinquishing command, Ashton was presented with the Legion of Merit (second award) for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as MAG-26 commander.

Among the distinguished guests present at the ceremony were retired Lt. Gen. Fred McCorkle, former deputy commandant for aviation; Maj. Gen. Robert M. Flanagan, Marine Corps Air Bases Eastern Area commanding general; retired Maj. Gen. Ross S. Plasterer and Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, assistant deputy commandant for aviation.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Colonel Thomas M. Murray took over command of MAG-26 from Col. Douglas F. Ashton at a change of command and retirement ceremony held Oct. 10.

# 'Untouchables' receive support squadron of the year

**Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank**  
correspondent

Marine Wing Support Squadron -272 received the Marine Corps Engineer Association, Marine Wing Support Squadron of the Year Award on Oct. 2 at the Harrisburg East Holiday Inn Convention Center in Harrisburg, Penn.

The MCEA awards program was established to recognize the engineer achievements of Marine units and individual Marines.

Gunnery Sgt. Vincent J. Smith and 1st Lt. Michael D. Libretto attended the ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of the Engineering Division of MWSS-272. The "Untouchables" competed with 15 other Marine Wing Support Squadrons for this award.

Each of the 21 individual and unit awards were presented at the annual Marine Corps Engineer Association National Symposium. The awards covered the period between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003.

Three other separate awards were also presented to MWSS-272 Marines. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas A. Hartman won

the award for the Engineer Equipment Operator; Gunnery Sgt. Alvin Patton won the award for Bulk Fuel Staff Noncommissioned Officer; and Cpl. H. J. Hoad won the award for Bulk Fuel Marine of the Year.

"It is what is expected of an 'Untouchable'," said Smith when asked about what the 122 Engineer Division Marines had accomplished.

The squadron left with four of the awards including the plaque presented to the entire engineer division at a formation on Oct. 10, which will be placed on the quarterdeck at the squadron headquarters.

Their accomplishments include 95 percent sustained readiness, finishing a three-month humanitarian exercise three weeks ahead of their proposed schedule (by that saving \$30,000) and giving support to three operating bases in Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This gave the Marines in the division a sense of accomplishment for the job they've done over the past year," said Libretto.

The Marine Corps Engineer Association was formed in Jacksonville in 1991 to promote Marine Corps Engineering in combat engineering, utilities, and construction.

## 'Patriots' take Tour de Pain



Sgt. Juan Vara

Colonel Douglas F. Ashton, former Marine Aircraft Group-26 commanding officer, presents Lt. Col. Carmine J. Borrelli, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 executive officer with the "Certificate of Pain" Oct. 3. The "Patriots" won the MAG-26 field meet held at the Station marina.

# New River Marine forecasts Isabel for Onslow County

**Cpl. Wayne Campbell**  
correspondent

During the winds and rain of Hurricane Isabel, the Onslow County Emergency Operations Center put its trust in the hands of a New River Marine to forecast the storm.

Sergeant Eric T. Hoffman, Station weather forecaster, assumed the position of weather service officer for the EOC on Sept. 17.

"My job was to brief the EOC director, Mark Goodman, every six hours of the storm's position, strength, projected position and projected strength when it got here," said Hoffman.

With the aid of computers and his forecasting knowledge, Hoffman was able to track the storm while keeping the local emergency crews and electric companies informed of what to expect during the hurricane, he explained.

"I used a program named HURREVAC," said Hoffman. "The program downloads the storm information from the National Hurricane Center in Miami."

With the program he was able to see Isabel's information and use his own knowledge to forecast the storm's intensity when it arrived in Onslow County, Hoffman added.

"Sergeant Hoffman used many tools to help us

with our center," said Chuck Dolejs, emergency planner for the EOC. "He downloaded information from the National Weather Service as well as being able to call his fellow Marines at New River for any additional information."

Hoffman explained that the EOC was very organized and professional.

"I had a chance to listen in on some conversations with the other counties and they didn't seem to be as organized as Onslow County," said Hoffman. "It was great working with the civilians of Onslow County. They respect and love the military so much

*See **FORECASTER**, page 10*

# Courts-martial

A private from Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit New River, was found guilty at Special Court-Martial on Sept. 9, for two specifications of violation of Article 91, disrespectful toward a staff noncommissioned officer and disrespectful in deportment toward a superior SNCO, one specification of violation of Article 128, simple assault, and four specifications of violation of Article 134, breaking restriction (2), disorderly conduct and drunk and disorderly conduct. Punishment: Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD), confinement for 120 days, and forfeiture of \$700 pay per month for four months.

A corporal from Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302, was found guilty at a Special Court-Martial on Oct. 15, for one specification of violation of Article 112a, wrongful use of cocaine. Punishment: Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD), confinement for 75 days, forfeiture of all pay and reduction to E-1.

A lance corporal from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, was found guilty at a Special Court-Martial on Oct. 16, for one specification of violation of Article 80, attempt to sell military property, two specifications of violation of Article 108, sale of military property, and one specification of violation of Article 121, larceny. Punishment: Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD), confinement for 45 days, forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months and reduction to E-2.

# Halloween safety tips from PMO

On Oct. 31 New River residents will see an overwhelming amount of ghosts, goblins, and numerous other little monsters as the Station children celebrate Halloween. While Halloween is a special time for children, everyone can help make it special by practicing some simple safety rules. Halloween safety ranges from roadways, open flames, costumes, parent supervision, inspection of goodies, and an overall atmosphere of courteousness.

1. If no sidewalk is available, always walk to the left of traffic.
2. Stay on the sidewalk when possible.
3. Never run into the road without first looking both ways to make sure there is no traffic coming.
4. Do not walk between parked cars.
5. Cross the street at crosswalks, and be alert for cars turning at intersections.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has many volunteers who provide assistance to Marines, Sailors and their family members.

# Marines provide relief in Iraq, receive aid at home

**Cpl. Theresa E. Seng**  
correspondent

Sometimes unexpected or unpleasant obstacles arise in people's lives, which they are not equipped to financially handle, such as a family death, unplanned pregnancy and medical problems.

Luckily there is a place for service-members to turn: the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Marines and Sailors helping Marines and Sailors.

Those who are eligible include active duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel, their family members, and the family members of those who died on active duty or in a retired status, as well as reservists on extended active duty.

The NMCRS is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides financial, educational and other assistance to servicemembers and eligible family members when in need. Counseling, loans, grants and referrals to other community resources are available for no charge.

"There is one myth I would like to dispel," said Sandi Isherwood, New River NMCRS director. "The Relief Society is not a charity or welfare. In 2002 we received \$39,000 in donations, but we gave out more than \$300,000.

"The only reason we can afford to give out more than we take in is because the money is repaid to us through the loans," she continued. "Even in the rare circumstances that it's

necessary to give a grant, the Marines usually repay the amount in the form of a donation when they are financially able."

One staff noncommissioned officer aboard the Station received a no-interest loan when he had a permanent change of station to New River and didn't receive his travel or dislocation allowances in time for his move half way across the country.

"I had to use my entire savings to make the move," he said. "When I got here I didn't have a place to stay and hardly any money to stay in a hotel."

The Relief Society caseworkers worked out a budget with the Marine to help him find ways to cut costs and save money so his situation wouldn't happen again.

"In the end, they gave me money for a security deposit and first month's rent, about \$250 for food at the commissary and enough money to pay my car insurance," he said.

In just one instance the Relief Society used many of its resources, such as financial assistance, budget reviews and the food locker, to help the SNCO.

Financial assistance is provided in the form of grants or interest-free loans to those who can afford to re-pay, said Isherwood. The Society does not, however, finance liberty and vacations, pay fines or legal expenses, pay taxes, finance recreational boats and vehicles or help families live beyond their means.

The money the Society provides can be used to help with emergency transportation, funeral expenses, medical and dental bills, disaster relief, childcare, essential vehicle repairs and other family emergencies.

Financial budget counseling helps Marines understand their monthly budget and how to make improvements. These reviews can be held per an individual request or via a command's request. One of the most popular budgeting classes is Budget for Baby, which raises the awareness of increased living expenses and a few ways to alter spending habits with a new baby.

Food lockers help feed clients and their families, or as the New River Society did with the SNCO, issue a check to the local commissary or grocery store.

There are many other instances in which the Relief Society can aid Marines and their families to improve quality of life.

The Society has education programs to help families pursue their academic goals based on their financial needs, said Isherwood. A few scholarships are the USS Tennessee Scholarship fund, the USS Stark Memorial Fund and bridge loans to supplement the tuition assistance program.

There is a visiting nurses' program available free of charge for nurses making hospital or home visits within a 25-mile radius of the program site. Patients who are seen include those

recovering from surgery, those with chronic health problems and new mothers.

"New River, itself, does not have a visiting nurse's program, but Camp Lejeune has three registered nurses who provide the service to the Jacksonville area," said Isherwood.

With all the means the Society has to foster the quality of life in the Corps, nine times out of 10, they will be able to help someone, she continued.

"It has to be justified," said the SNCO. "It's an excellent place to get help, but it's not a place to swindle \$1,300 to get subwoofers and speakers for your car, or to get rent money because you blew your paycheck on something like that."

If the Society does deny a Marine's request for help, they can always utilize their command appeal, said Isherwood. "If a Marine's [commanding officer, executive officer or sergeant major] feels strongly that the Relief Society should help, they call and give insight into the case. Nine times out of ten, with the command's input, the Marine will receive assistance the same day they were first denied."

"I really think it's a good place, one of the best programs the Navy and Marine Corps has to offer," said the SNCO.

To sign up for budgeting classes or find out more about receiving assistance, contact the New River Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at 449-6431, for help that is confidential.



# Awards & Promotions

**Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron**

**Promotions**

Sgt. G. E. Harris  
Sgt. C. P. Kopp  
Sgt. D. W. Lowe Jr.  
Sgt. D. T. Noble  
Sgt. C. W. Weiser  
Cpl. D. D. Barnes  
Cpl. D. S. Galloway  
Cpl. D. P. Thompson Jr.  
Lance Cpl. J. D. Russell  
Lance Cpl. A. SilvaAlvarez  
Lance Cpl. A. C. Warner

**Good Conduct Medal**

Cpl. E. G. Anderson  
Cpl. R. K. Bynum II  
Cpl. S. A. Chouinard  
Cpl. B. H. McSwain  
Lance Cpl. D. D. Ford

**Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29**

**Promotions**

Staff Sgt. J. D. Bruinsma  
Sgt. J. D. Coletti  
Sgt. J. B. Reagan  
Sgt. T. R. Speegle  
Cpl. C. C. Barraza  
Cpl. J. J. Carter  
Cpl. M. V. Donovan

Cpl. J. I. Guerrero  
Cpl. C. A. Hughes  
Cpl. M. R. Jeffcoat  
Cpl. B. J. Kaher  
Cpl. J.A. Marrone Jr.  
Cpl. M. R. Martin  
Cpl. D. H. McMurtrie II  
Cpl. M. J. Medlin  
Cpl. D. E. Portwood  
Cpl. E. S. Valcourt  
Lance Cpl. A. L. Reyes III  
Lance Cpl. D. B. Smith  
Lance Cpl. G. E. Thorpe Jr.  
Lance Cpl. S. W. Villanova  
Pfc. I. Teplitskiy

**Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit New River**

**Promotions**

Lance Cpl. J. O. AreizaCardona  
Lance Cpl. J. D. Bishop  
Lance Cpl. G. A. Byle  
Lance Cpl. J. L. Gallagher  
Lance Cpl. I. K. Heskitt  
Lance Cpl. N. J. Hureta  
Lance Cpl. M. C. Ice  
Lance Cpl. C. L. Jennings  
Lance Cpl. M. T. Kitter  
Lance Cpl. R M. Klingerman  
Lance Cpl. R. J. Markajani  
Lance Cpl. M. W. Renard  
Lance Cpl. E. J. Schwarz  
Lance Cpl. K. C. Simms

Lance Cpl. J. Q. Thompson Jr.  
Lance Cpl. J. E. Vega  
Lance Cpl. W. C. Wilkins III  
Lance Cpl. M. S. Willman  
Pfc. B. F. Effenberger  
Pfc. F. M. Garcia  
Pfc. C. R. Gonzales  
Pfc. B. L. Kack  
Pfc. T. K. Lane  
Pfc. T. C. Oneal  
Pfc. N. L. Tachell  
Pfc. T. M. Wells  
Pfc. A. C. Wise

**Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204**

**Promotions**

Lance Cpl. J. R. Davidson  
Lance Cpl. N. B. Paulson

**Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Gunnery Sgt. M. J. Zakrajsek

**Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464**

**Promotions**

Sgt. R. M. Purnell  
Cpl. V. N. Parks  
Lance Cpl. J. R. Boshers  
Lance Cpl. B. S. Durbin

**Air Medal**

Capt. W. J. Dunford  
Sgt. S. H. Esquivel  
Sgt. R. H. Frese Jr.  
Sgt. D. L. Levens  
Cpl. G. F. Boyd  
Cpl. W. M. Plos  
Lance Cpl. J. R. Roderick  
Lance Cpl. R. A. Urbanek

**Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal**

Staff Sgt. J. B. Lewis  
Staff Sgt. F. McDonald

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

Sgt. R. H. Frese Jr.

**Good Conduct Medal**

Cpl. H. Barry  
Cpl. G. R. Cherrix  
Cpl. J. E. McColley  
Cpl. J. J. Propst  
Lance Cpl. B. R. Comeau  
Lance Cpl. P. Khensisana  
Lance Cpl. J. L. Salas  
Lance Cpl. M. D. Stephenson

**Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group-26**

**Legion of Merit**

Col. D. F. Ashton

# Response to K-9 article

**Sgt. Elisha J. Geske**  
contributor



In the "Who let the dogs out?" article published in the Oct. 8 issue of *The RotoVue* some inaccurate information was given as to how Military Working Dogs react to locating narcotics.

It was said that we want the dogs to be aggressive and rip into things

such as mattresses when the dogs smell narcotics, but that is incorrect. All Department of Defense MWDs are trained in detection to passively respond while sniffing odor.

In other words, when the dogs locate the narcotics, their response should be to sit while

continuing to sniff the odor. This informs the handler that their dog has found the narcotics. The last thing we want our dogs to do is destroy any property that might be searched.

According to the Lackland Air Force Base 341st Training Squadron manual, if any dog displays an aggressive response during their certification, the dog will fail to certify. A response is deemed aggressive when the dog attempts to bite, scratch or excessively nudge the training aid or area containing the training aid.

Both narcotics and explosives dogs are trained the same, but the only difference is they search for different things. They are expected to have the same response during detection. If the dogs do not respond properly, they are not rewarded.

For more information about the K-9 unit, contact Sgt. Elisha J. Geske at 449-6955.

## Over 30 and still flying



Capt. Ronald Brand

**Sergeant Maj. John F. Rethage, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 sergeant major, poses with aircraft 03 on his way to the Weapons and Tactics Instructors' Course aboard Yuma, Ariz. Rethage and '03' celebrated their 38th and 36th birthday on Sept. 18.**

## FORECASTER

*from page 4*

that they trust us with this job."

David Colvin, Station deputy operations officer, tasked Hoffman with the position.

"I selected him [Hoffman] because he is a very mature and hard working Marine noncommissioned officer," said Colvin.

Hoffman, an Olean, N.Y., native, joined the Marine Corps in 1999 as a weather observer. After boot camp and Marine Combat Training, Hoffman spent the next three and a half months at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., attending the Marine Corps weather observer course.

After three years of experience as an observer, Hoffman returned to Keesler AFB for the 10-month forecasting course and gained a great deal of experience forecasting storms while stationed in Okinawa, Japan, prior to coming to New River.

"He [Hoffman] was very helpful," said Dolejs. "We were glad to have his expertise on our team."

## Station celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

Dozens of Marines, Sailors and family members gathered at a dinner held at the New River Officers' Club, Oct. 7, in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Organized by the Station equal opportunity advisor, Staff Sgt. Mario R. Morales, and the members of the equal opportunity committee, the event featured Master Gunnery Sgt. Luis A. Cisneros, motor transport chief of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune's Base Motor Transport, and Lt. Col. Antonio J. Cerrillo, commanding officer of the Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit New River, as the guest speakers.

Born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Cisneros moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1974 and attended recruit training in 1978. He graduated platoon honorman and attended Motor Transport School, Marine Corps Service Support Schools, Camp Johnson. He has served several tours aboard Camp Lejeune, Okinawa, Japan and Camp Johnson and served as a drill instructor at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

Cisneros has participated in operations such as Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort, and has taken part in exercises such as Team Spirit 86 and 88 (in South Korea) and Cobra Gold 97 (in Thailand).

"Throughout my 26 years in the Marine Corps, one of the aspects I've loved the most is that no matter where you're from or where you come from you always get treated as a Marine," said Cisneros. "That's the way Marines conduct businesses, I am not labeled."

He talked about some of the struggles he had transitioning to living in New York, the amount of Hispanic-Americans in the lineups of Major League Baseball and other sports and the achievements of Hispanic-Americans in the military. He also talked about the life and death of Roberto Clemente, the first MLB player of Hispanic descent to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"I'm honored to be here," he said. "No matter what you do in life, let us all be proud of who we are. Remember always that we're here for one single purpose, to be the great citizens that we are today."

Cerrillo, a Milwaukee, Wis., native, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1973. In 1980, then a staff sergeant, he joined the active reserves and was commissioned a second lieutenant after graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 1986.

Throughout his time in the Corps, Cerrillo has held many billets. Among them are F-4 hydraulicsman, infantry platoon sergeant, airframes division officer, assistant aircraft maintenance officer, foreign area officer, AH-1W project officer, joint service operations action officer, executive officer to the deputy commander-in-chief of U.S. Southern Command, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-11 executive officer and was temporarily assigned to the 3rd Marine

Aircraft Wing from May to July 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Hispanic-Americans have been making tremendous progress in the Armed Forces," said Cerrillo.

The topics of his lecture were racism, mentorship and equality.

"Let racism be the other person's problem," he said. "Don't let it bring you down or use it as a blame for your shortcomings. I remember being one of the few Hispanics in a squadron, and I attribute my success to my NCOs [noncommissioned officers] and officers for being my role models."

Colonel Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer, said events like this recognize the diversity of ethnic backgrounds in the Marine Corps and serve as an opportunity for attendees to learn about the contributions the different ethnic groups have made to the nation.

In 1968, Congress declared the week including Sept. 15 and 16 "National Hispanic Heritage Week." In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford proclaimed Sept. 10 - 16 as "National Hispanic Heritage Week." Fourteen years later, Congress authorized Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 to be "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

The month covers the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October, including dates important to several Latin countries.



Sgt. Juan Vara

**Austin M. Jacques, 6, family member of Pfc. Griselda Gomez, a personnel clerk at the Station's Installation Personnel Administrative Center, swings at a piñata after the celebration dinner held Oct. 7.**





Cpl. Wayne Campbell

Teams from New River and MCAS Cherry Point went head to head in the East Coast Regional Soccer Tournament held aboard the Station on Oct. 6 - 9.

## Soccer tournament a success

**Cpl. Wayne Campbell**  
correspondent

Marine Corps Community Services and the Station hosted the East Coast Regional Soccer Tournament Oct. 6 - 9.

The tournament consisted of teams from 2nd Force Service Support Group, 2nd Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, New River, Marine Corps Base Quantico and Tri-Command, which consisted of MCAS Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and the Beaufort Naval Hospital.

New River MCCA requested to have the event held at New River, and they also organized the event.

During the opening ceremony, Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer, gave a few words of encouragement to the teams.

"All the teams worked hard to get here and represent their command," said Forand. "No matter what the outcome is you all will be back playing the game that you love."

Forand added that he was proud to host the tournament.

The tournament was scheduled to be a round robin where every team plays each other once and the two teams with the best record play for the championship.

Due to inclement weather, 10 of the scheduled 17 games were played, explained Nancy Haigh, Station MCCA athletics director. All teams were able

to play three games with two teams, Tri-Command and 2nd Marine Division, playing four games.

Haigh added that after deciding to end the games early, the points were tallied up and the Division team won. They came out on top over Tri-Command to win first place.

"The teams are not just here to win the tournament," added Haigh. "Each individual is being watched by the All-Marine Soccer Team coach to see if they win a spot to try-out for the team."

Eleven Marines from the East Coast Regionals were selected to go to the try-outs at MCRD San Diego. From there the All-Marine team coach, Staff Sgt. Mario R. Morales, Station equal opportunity advisor and New River soccer team coach, will decide who will play for the team.

Morales was selected by personnel at Headquarters Marine Corps earlier in the year to coach the All-Marine team. He has played for the team 10 times in his 12 and a half year Marine Corps career and was chosen for the All-Armed Forces team six times. In 1999, he was a part of the Military Olympic team. This season's New River team was the first team he has coached.

"I want the chance to pass on the knowledge that I have to others," said Morales.

While winning is the goal of any team, working together as a team is what the Marine Corps is all about, concluded Morales.

## Station PMO conducts 'Operation Freedom Pedal'

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

Marines from the Station Provost Marshal's Office traveled to Washington, D.C., to conduct "Operation Freedom Pedal" on Oct. 12.

Commanded by the Station's Provost Marshal, Maj. Bryan K. Wood, the Marines departed New River the morning of Oct. 11 and carpooled to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where they spent the night preparing for their 20-mile bike ride.

The following morning they drove to Washington and pedaled their way from the East Potomac Park to several parks and monuments in the area, including the Marine Corps War Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Memorial.

According to Wood, the trip was organized to experience the nation's capital in a way that would allow up-close and personal appreciation of what our country has been through to achieve its great status.

"Awareness of history and heritage builds pride in us as Americans

and deepens our resolve to be better individuals," said Wood.

While in Washington, the 17 Marines had an opportunity to participate in the 12th annual "Taste of DC" celebration on Pennsylvania Avenue, tour Ford's Theater National Historic Site and witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

"The whole thing was very motivating," said Sgt. Shaun K. Womack, assistant physical security chief and Lubbock, Texas, native. "I'm ready to go back, it was a good learning experience."

Womack had never been to D.C. and said of all the monuments there, the one that impressed him the most was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

"It was overwhelming," he said. "I had no idea of how many names were on it and I guess people don't realize how many lives were lost unless they see the wall."

Taking advantage of the holiday weekend, the PMO Marines combined physical training and historical appreciation while fostering camaraderie and boosting morale within the unit.



Sgt. Juan Vara

The Marine Corps War Memorial was one of the sites the Station PMO Marines rode by during "Operation Freedom Pedal" on Oct. 12.

# 10K run honors fallen servicemembers, survivors

**Sgt. Christine C. Odom**  
correspondent

It has been 20 years since the bombing of Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, and many have not forgotten those who tragically lost their lives.

In honor of those servicemembers, Marine Corps Community Services sponsored a race, the Beirut Memorial 10K Run on Oct. 18.

More than 300 people participated in the race. One in particular was Master Sgt. Emanuel Simmons, a survivor of the Beirut bombing who flew all the way from Okinawa, Japan, to attend. He felt honored that so many people decided to participate in the event.

Simmons is the equal opportunity adviser for 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Courtney.

Peter Maksimow, a resident of Wilmington, won the race with a time of 33 minutes and 20 seconds. Maksimow is a veteran at running mountain races and believes that's what helped him win this race.

"When I signed up for the race, I didn't know that it was for the Beirut bombing incident," said Maksimow, who after learning what the race was for felt better about running in memory of those servicemembers.

After the race concluded, participants treated themselves to the beverages, bagels and barbeque provided by MCCA.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

**In memory of those who lost their lives in the Beirut bombing, hundreds of civilians, servicemembers and their families participated in the Beirut Memorial 10K Run held at Camp Johnson on Oct. 18.**





Capt. Rob James

**A bronze statue of a Marine watches over our fallen servicemembers at the Beirut Memorial located at the entrance to Camp Johnson.**

# Why remember Beirut?

## **Unknown Marine Corps Veteran** contributor

I am proud to call myself a Marine Beirut Vet. Other than to honor our fallen, for anything else concerning the "Root", I was silent. It is time we all stand up to remember.

The Marine Corps is proud of many things, but nothing more so than the way we take care of our own. That is one of the prime reasons we must remember Beirut. We must remember the early morning hours of 23 October 1983, 6:22 a.m. Beirut time to be exact, when a truck loaded with 2,000 pounds of explosives crashed through the security perimeter of the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The terrorist truck bomb exploded inside the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team barracks, killing 241 and seriously injuring 80 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers. The young people, on a mission of peace, were killed as they slept. We must also remember the other 31 men who died during the Marine presence in Beirut from 1958 to 1984 and Grenada as well. The men of Beirut and Grenada will be remembered in grateful appreciation of their sacrifice on behalf of freedom on Thursday at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

I proudly served with the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit, who replaced the 24th MAU. After Grenada we raced to assist our buddies in Lebanon. When we landed we were all witness to the carnage that had so recently occurred. The air around the building site still reeked from the compressed, gas-enhanced explosives used in the cowardly attack, the stench of the collapsed building still hung in the air but worst of all was the horrible odor of what had so recently been our buddies.

When we first arrived I remember an ammo box completely wedged into a tree trunk 100 feet from the building. I remember seeing a soft cover on the ground ripped to shreds and stained with blood.

We were ably led, being fortunate to have had some of the finest leaders in the Marine Corps. I remember the outstanding leadership of Lt. Col. Ray Smith (now a retired major general) who was the battalion commander, Col. James P. Faulkner, the MAU CO, Brigadier Gen. Jim R. Joy, the Joint Task Force commanding general, future Commandant of the Marine Corps General Al M. Gray, then division commander and Capt. Keith A. Oliver (now a colonel), the MAU public affairs officer.

I also keep in mind many of our fallen comrades along with the sounds and scenes of the dead and the wounded, both friendly and enemy.

One hero I will never forget is Major Al Butler III. He worked in the MAU operations shop and was tasked as the Lebanese Army Liaison Officer. Major Butler always acted quickly and smartly in all endeavors and never showed the least bit of hesitation. He also had that way of motivating all those around him on a continuous basis. We both happened to be at the Beirut International Airport where the Marines position was, and he told me they were gunning for him. In spite of this information he ventured out on a daily basis and did his job. Unfortunately, he never made it home.

Many of the victims of this atrocity were residents of Jacksonville. The tragedy of Beirut was the catalyst that brought Jacksonville and Marines of Camp Lejeune together. Today we are all one community. Lejeune Boulevard is the main thoroughfare linking Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville and is lined with 241 memorial trees. Each tree was planted as a living memorial to a deceased friend

and family member who perished on the fateful day 20 years ago. The good citizens of Jacksonville raised the funds necessary to plant and maintain all 241 trees. Fundraising continued and the Beirut Memorial was built. The monument and trees are not only a symbol of our strength and respect for our fallen heroes, but a testament to community and service by the citizens of Jacksonville and Marines of Camp Lejeune.

For the longest time I didn't wish for any recollection of the "Root" other than to honor our fallen comrades. There is much I don't care to remember of Beirut, but we must. Every time we put on our uniform we are reminded that we always take care of our own. We will remember and by doing so, we will honor our fallen and wounded heroes of Beirut and Grenada.

Beirut was the first volley of the Global War on Terrorism. In September 2001, I went to the World Trade Center site. The sights, stench and destruction brought back many memories of Beirut. Beirut was the most deadly act of terrorism prior to September 11, 2001. The lowly excuses for the killing are similar to those heard 20 years ago. The purpose of these cowardly acts was to separate us. As Americans, these tactics only serve to draw us together. Some are calling Beirut the first battle of World War III. This is a conflict we did not want, but one in which we cannot afford to lose. We have the will to win and we will prevail.

When we fight, we strongly believe in God, Corps and country, but we fight for our buddies. For those who sacrificed and served, special programs are planned for Thursday at Camp Lejeune. The ceremonies, dedications and banquets will bring all of us together to honor the heroes of Beirut. On October 23 we will remember our buddies.